

**EASTERN REGION RECREATION
RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 8, 2008**



The fourth meeting of the Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) convened at 8:00 am on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Nine of the eleven members of the RRAC participated.

RRAC members in attendance: Randy Harden, Ronald Craig, Nicholas Manjerovic, John Schnorr, Dana Johnson, Rosemary Mape, Jo Deen Lowe, Susan Arnold, and Christine Jourdain.

USFS attendees included: Caroline Mitchell, Marcia Heymen, Cheryl Chatham, Melanie Fullman, Carol Boll, and Ken Arbogast.

Rosemary Mape, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:10 am and opened the conference call-in line to accommodate members of the public who wanted to join the meeting via teleconference.

Field Trip Critique: An optional field trip, a first for the RRAC, was held the day before the official meeting (October 7, 2008) on the Huron-Manistee NF. Members of the public who had requested information regarding the field trip were invited to participate. There were no attendees from the public.

Field Trip Objectives: 1) discussion and visual reference at recreation sites defining the provisions of the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), 2) free recreation sites vs. fee recreation sites and how recommendations were developed to provide both opportunities to the public, 3) development level scales for recreation sites throughout the Region, 4) examples of amenities provided at different level recreation sites; what helps determine free vs. fee sites, 5) examples of fees described in REA, i.e. standard amenity, expanded amenity, and special recreation permit fees.

Committee Discussion: Was the field trip worthwhile?

Yes. Very helpful to have a visual understanding and discussion in the field regarding what is talked about during committee meetings. Helpful to know what different development level scales look like at recreation sites, and to see the difference between a standard amenity site vs. expanded amenity site. It was time well spent.

While every meeting will not have a field trip component attached to it, options for future field trips could include the Shawnee NF, or the White Mountain NF. It would depend on which geographical area and discussion topics would best benefit the Committee and the publics they serve based on future anticipated fee proposals. Over the past weeks, the Committee had received a number of letters from the public regarding possible fee proposals for equestrian/trail use on the Shawnee NF in southern Illinois (which did not come forward for committee discussion at this time). On the White Mountain NF, the need to discuss High Impact Recreation Areas (HIRAs) may occur in the near future, while the FS analyzes HIRAs as currently authorized through REA.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Minutes from the spring 2008 meeting had been formally approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairperson last spring; posted to the Eastern Region RRAC website (www.fs.fed.us/r9/rrac).

Future Meetings: The RRAC prefers to schedule meetings at least a year out to: 1) provide Forests ample time to strategically plan and prepare the fee proposals, 2) encourage as much public input as possible, both through Forest level public participation opportunities and with the RRAC prior to the meeting, and 3) accommodate RRAC schedules to the degree possible. Discussion included:

- March/April and October as possible meeting dates for next year-2009
- Potential dates for next year's meetings. Winter/Spring 2009 – late March/April seems to work for the group. Fall 2009 – October works for the group with a possible field trip. Location: Milwaukee for April. Chairperson Mape will send an email to RRAC members asking for potential dates that would work for their schedules.
- Agenda will be tiered to RRAC informational needs and fee proposals developed by Forests w/public involvement component completed.

RRAC Charter Renewal: The original RRAC Charter expired in September 2008 and, after review by the RRAC Chairperson was approved and signed by the Secretary of Agriculture through September of 2010.

Committee Terms: The term of service for committee members is either 2 or 3 years and was determined at the first RRAC meeting (April 24, 2007) when the Charter and By-laws were adopted by the RRAC. Current terms of service expire in February of 2009. There is now an opportunity for people to apply--both from: 1) interested citizens/members of the public and, 2) current RRAC members whose two-year terms expire, and are interested in serving an additional 2-3 year term. An outreach effort is underway, which includes: 1) press release distribution from each Forest across the Region, 2) notification by Forest Supervisors to public mailing lists, partners, etc, 3) Federal Register notice, 4) letters from the Regional Forester to the Governor of each state in the Eastern Region, 5) WEB postings, etc.. Discussion regarding that process ensued. Applications are being accepted now.

Category #1 Recreation Users

Jourdain – 3
Manjerovic – 3
Harden – 2
Craig – 3
Schnorr - 2

Category #2 Outfitter Guides/ Environmental Groups

Schowalter – 2
Arnold – 2
Johnson – 3

Category #3 States, Tribes & Local Gov.

Mape - 3
Lowe - 2
Sutton - 2

Agency Activities: Chatham provided an update on: 1) a new Regional Forester is in place in the Eastern Regional Office in Milwaukee. Kent Connaughton sends his thanks to the RRAC for their contribution of time, advice, recommendations and ideas. 2) Possible efforts by Congress for repeal of REA during the next legislative session (2009); 3) Senate Bill (S.2438) introduced last year. House Sub-committee hearing was

held in June of 2008; has not gone to the House for a vote; Chairperson to keep the RRAC updated on status.

Public Participation: The RRAC wanted to discuss how to assess public participation and input activities as it related to their role with the Committee. Over the past several months, the RRAC had received numerous letters and emails directly from the public. During that timeframe (between the spring/fall 2008 RRAC meetings), the Chairperson of the Committee had responded to each individual letter from the public. The RRAC had received copies of each letter prior to the October 8 meeting for their information/review.

Also, in the week prior to the meeting, the RRAC received an email from Michael Scott & Peter Wiechers with a request that their written comments be provided directly to the Committee at the meeting. Written correspondence from Kitty Benzar, representing the Western Slope No Fee Coalition regarding the specific fee proposals had also been sent to the RRAC prior to the meeting. RRAC members had read all the correspondence.

This influx of input from the public had prompted the Committee to discuss their role in representing the public and how best to address the public input.

Discussion: The RRAC welcomed the increased information from the public. It helps them better access what is important to the public. As a Committee, they agreed that the RRAC would send a letter back to the commenter's letting them know that the RRAC received, reviewed and discussed their correspondence during the formal discussion at the meeting.

The RRAC also agreed that "general public support" is a bit difficult to define. They did agree that statements of "support" or "lack of support" should *specifically*: 1) discuss what type of recreation activity they are speaking to (i.e. camping, day use, equestrian riding, etc) and 2) address a particular fee proposal (increase or decrease) as it relates to a particular Forest recreation site (i.e. Smokey Bear Campground proposed fee increase)

Further, future RRAC discussions may well include an analysis determining if the public values the benefits/services provided as a result of the fee, if the fee contributes to better services, and if so, after analyzing the public involvement summary on each project proposal, assess public support or lack thereof.

- RRAC members revisited the Charter to clarify their role as Committee members i.e. "to serve in an advisory capacity regarding changes to, or implementation or elimination of recreation fees and the recreation program."
- Committee discussion then focused on a careful review of petitions that had been submitted to them with public comments/signatures regarding some recreation programs managed by the Forest Service, primarily relating to proposals for equestrian use on the Shawnee NF earlier in the year—but not part of the agenda for this particular RRAC meeting.
- Some petitions were specific to a particular recreation activity, and some were general in nature i.e. a petition against fees in general—and lacking specific recreation uses or a specific recreation sites was part of the RRAC discussion. The RRAC responds to specific proposals—is a general statement opposing fees a legitimate 'opposition' for project specific fee proposals? Some committee members felt that opposition/support should be specifically tiered to individual proposals.

- There was discussion on how to address situations where only one group comes in with opinions (example: ...hear only from equestrian users but not from other user groups i.e. campers, hikers, etc). Does that mean other users are okay with the increase? One Committee member stated that ...” members of the public who feel strongly one way or the other are those that are going to speak out.....and usually those are the ones that oppose a particular action. Often when people do not necessarily oppose something, or feel that they can accept it, they will say nothing about it.”
- RRAC feels pretty comfortable with the level of public involvement presented in the individual fee proposals. A particular comment was that the RRAC ...”liked that the forests are documenting the efforts to provide comments from Indian Tribes.”
- An email from the public, Peter Wiechers received the day before the meeting regarding river access was provided to the Committee. The RRAC read and discussed the email note.

Things to change in future fee proposals for the RRAC consideration:

- The RRAC asked the Forest Service to provide a report from the Regional Fee Board at the next RRAC meeting stating: 1) how many proposals were reviewed at the Regional level, 2) how many were sent forward for RRAC review, 3) and how many were sent back to the Forests for additional work/information. (The Forest Service has several levels of internal review to determine the validity of the fee proposal before it is submitted to the RRAC i.e. unit review-District Ranger and/or Forest Supervisor, Agency Review i.e. Recreation Regional Fee Board, Final review/analysis FS Regional Forester. The FS looks at the validity of fee proposal and ensures that recreation actions are tied to the Agency mission of sustainable recreation i.e. any alternative that does not sustain the health of the forest community for the long run will not be considered.
- The RRAC discussed the option of volunteers to help with recreation related needs at sites across the Region, and recognized that it costs some \$\$ to support volunteer efforts.
- Committee discussed information provided them in the fee proposal packages that comes to them as “pre-work”. (Also available to the public on webpage: www.fs.fed.us/r9/rrac). The RRAC is basically satisfied with the information being provided before the meeting. During the field trip earlier that week, the RRAC visited recreation sites where fee proposal information was posted at individual recreation sites so the users have an opportunity to be aware of fee increase/decrease proposal, and respond accordingly. This gave the RRAC a better sense of how information is shared with the public at the recreation site.
- The RRAC asked if the fee collection envelope provided at recreation sites for fee collections could have a space for the user’s email address. The Forest could then develop an email list for users of a particular forest. Forest could send an email out saying that a change is being proposed and include a link to the website. This list could also be used to recruit volunteers, etc. The Forest Service will explore this option.
- Review of the fee proposal recommendation process was discussed. Melanie Fullman, Eastern Region Fee Board Chair, will present each proposal individually to the Committee, after which the Chairperson opens a discussion period. Forest recreation staff is on standby in their individual offices if the Committee has specific questions. A call can be made to clarify the necessary points on recreation proposals.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION-(Agenda 9:00-9:30 am; toll free call-in opportunity for public) – RRAC Chair checked with the conference call operator at 9am who announced that no one from the public had called in to participate at the public input phase of the meeting. The operator remained on standby to answer incoming calls and inform the Committee when someone called and wanted to join the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, five individuals had expressed interest in speaking to the RRAC through the teleconference capability, all had received the toll free call-in information, and indicated they may call in to address the RRAC or listen in during the meeting.

Mr. Michael Scott joined the call via speaker phone at 9:15 am and expressed his concerns to the RRAC on the proposed increase of fees on the Shawnee NF:

“Chairperson Mape and board members, thank you for the opportunity to express my views on the proposed increase in campground fees for the Shawnee National Forest.

Because of time constraints, please refer to my written statements as support for the highlights I am about to address.

The fundamental reason that I oppose campground increases is because the Shawnee National Forest administration has failed to demonstrate general public support for these increases, as required in the FLREA, and the rate of fee increase proposed is 2 ½ times the rate of inflation since 1996. You cannot assume that NO comment means a YES for the fees! Where’s the logic?

I would like to question the logic and misinformation that was presented to you by this administration.

1. The proposal states, “Considering that a minimum number of 1000 campers used the Forest’s campgrounds during the comment period, the comparatively low number of letters indicates general public acceptance of the need to raise camping fees, since so few letters expressed specific opposition to the campground fees increase.” Where’s the logic in that statement? Also, there may have been 1000 campers, but what about the 4784 people who signed petitions opposing the fees. If you will look closely at the petition language, you will see the first to oppose are campers. This is not an example of demonstrating general public support.
2. The proposal states, “two southern Illinois tourism boards voted not to sign a petition to oppose fees.” That statement is FALSE. The Saline County Tourism Board did sign the resolution opposing fees. Keep in mind that tourism board members represent their respective counties.....and keeps in mind that all 10 County Boards within the boundaries of the Shawnee National Forest DID sign a resolution of opposition.

RRAC agreed to discuss Mr. Scott’s comments and other written comments pertaining to the Shawnee NF proposal when it came up on the agenda later in the day.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Scott for taking the time to review the proposals, call in and address the committee and provide his comments both verbally and in writing.

Forest Project Proposals:

As each project came up for discussion, Regional Fee Board Chair Melanie Fullman provided a short overview of each proposal and summarized public involvement activities through a power point presentation (attached to web). The RRAC addressed comments from the public, and those from Michael Scott and Kitty Benzar that related directly to the proposals as the discussion took place.

Proposal 1:

National Forest: Mark Twain NF

Proposed Action: Increase daily and annual permit fees for the motorcycle and ATV trail systems at Chadwick and Sutton Bluff.

Current Fee: Daily \$5/Annual Permit \$35; Proposed Fee: Daily \$7/Annual Permit \$45

Discussion:

- Cost of recreation staff to help with on the ground work
- Type of Radio show the proposed fee increase was announced on during the public involvement work? Local station with a call-in show.
- Initially, 18 opposed the increase, 13 supported the increase, 10 expressed support for a reduced increase. The proposal has been modified to respond to the public comment by reducing the proposed increase to \$7 rather than \$10 and \$45 rather than \$60. Did the forest go back out to the public with the reduced proposal? Yes
- RRAC?: Will the Forest have enough money to conduct the maintenance work, build additional miles of trail and other activities they need to accomplish? Fee \$\$, along with appropriated \$\$ could also be used. Maintenance of motorized trails can range from \$2,500-\$15,000 per mile. Rehabilitation is different than maintenance. Maintenance in this situation includes the rehabilitation – yearly maintenance and periodic replacement.
- If approved, will the forest specify where the fees are going by posting at the site? Yes and the RRAC can request that the forest do it. The RRAC would like for the forests to identify the accomplishments and list them at the sites, etc.
- \$35 annual, is that per person or per ATV? Fee is per machine.

Arnold made a motion to recommend the proposal. Manjerovic seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved

Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Public Input Timeframe – Chairman Mape closed the public comment period at 9:50 am with no further call-ins from the public. The conference call remained open for those from the public who might want to listen to the remainder of the meeting.

Proposal 2:

National Forest: Chippewa NF

Proposed Action: Increase fees for sites with electric hook-ups at Norway Beach Campground and Stony Point Campground.

Current Fee: \$23 Proposed Fee: \$26/sites with electric hook-ups

Discussion:

- Seem to make sense, is a straight-forward request

Harden made a motion to recommend. Johnson seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

- Category 1: 4 approved
- Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)
- Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Proposal 3:

National Forest: Monongahela NF

Proposed Action: Implement fee for 30 developed campsites

Current Fee: New fee Proposed Fee: \$5/site/night

Discussion:

- Examples of what was posted at site and newspaper clippings were handed out to the RRAC
- Included minimum of 6 months notification through Federal Register
- Why Special Recreation Permit vs. Expanded Amenity: management of site. Area is not a designated as a campground, but for campsites along river corridor.

Harden made a motion to recommend the proposal. Craig seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

- Category 1: 4 approved
- Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)
- Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Proposal 4:

National Forest: Shawnee NF

Proposed Action: Fee increase at 5 campgrounds: Pine Ridge, Pharaoh, Camp Cadiz, Johnson Creek, and Pine Hills

Current Fee: Pine Ridge, Camp Cadiz and Pine Hills - \$5/night
Johnson Creek - \$5/night/single, \$9/night/double, \$12/night/triple

Proposed Fee: Pine Ridge, Camp Cadiz and Pine Hills - \$10/night
Johnson Creek - \$10/night/single, \$12/night/double,
\$15/night/triple

Discussion:

- RRAC had received 45 letters from users of the Shawnee NF since the spring meeting. (February 26, 2008) Most were in regard to trails relating primarily to equestrian use, some day-use comments and a few comments regarding campgrounds. Day-use and Trail i.e. equestrian proposals were not brought forward to the RRAC for consideration at this meeting. In June, the Forest had completed public involvement activities for equestrian trails use, day-use and campgrounds. Due to lack of proven public support for equestrian trail use and day use, the Forest opted not to forward their fee proposals for equestrian and day use to the RRAC, but rather rework their proposals and initiate public involvement activities at a future date—not yet determined. This particular fee increase proposal is for campground only.
- RRAC member John Schnorr visited the Shawnee NF in June. He shared observations from his trip. Public land is sparsely scattered among private land; extensive array of outfitters that specialize in equestrian use. Some of the campgrounds are in disarray and need maintenance work, the forest has been mandated by a judge to improve the equestrian trails. Equestrian users seem focused primarily on their specific recreation needs—not on the best interests of the forest. There are trails on private land that can be used by equestrian enthusiasts, as well as public land opportunities.
- Local use vs. outside users—what is the difference in percentages of use?
- RRAC member: There is a clear discrepancy between some comments and the actual proposal regarding tourism boards i.e. “that the boards did respond and oppose the fees....—there is a difference of opinion on that matter in the input we’ve received.” The proposal (pg. 17 in pre-work) recognizes that two tourism based groups opted not to sign a petition supporting fees due to their concerns that tourism dollars are stretched. However, the Southern Illinois Tourism Board recognized the need to raise campground fees in order to continue to offer and keep open the facilities on the Forest.
- RRAC spent time reviewing the petitions and other numerous documents provided by the public to determine relevance to the campground fee proposal vs. trail and day-use proposals. It was determined that one of the petitions related directly to the Illinois Dept of Natural Resources, not the Forest Service.
- RRAC: “It is not clear if the concern is regarding just the campgrounds or the other aspects of the original proposal (day-use and equestrian trails).” The input from much of the public does not specifically state opposition to fee increases for campground, and that’s what this proposal is i.e. fees for campgrounds.”
- RRAC: “If campgrounds are improved, use could increase thus improving tourism for the area.”
- RRAC: “Seems that a lot of the opposition presented from the public, including the letters we’ve received the last few months are geared toward primarily the equestrian use, and some days use.”

Schnorr made a motion to recommend, Jourdain seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

- Category 1: All approved
- Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)
- Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

RRAC: Public Outreach Suggestion: For future submittals to the RRAC from the Shawnee NF, the RRAC has some very specific things they will be looking for if the equestrian use and day use fee increase proposals come to them for consideration in the future. 1) Petitions for or against a proposal would need to specifically state the topic i.e. equestrian use or day use etc, and exactly what the person signing agrees to. 2) The forest must document scoping results and comments from local & regional boards, elected officials, partners etc and provide those specific details to the RRAC. 3) The forests would need to initiate an expanded outreach program to let public users know exactly what the fee proposal is about, how it would impact them and their use of the Forest. 4) Volunteers need to be better versed in volunteer opportunities, and that volunteers can receive Forest discount passes for work they do to benefit the public lands. The RRAC looked at the Standard Volunteer Form which spells out agreements between the FS and the individual and encouraged efforts on the Forest to expand their volunteer program.

BREAK for lunch at 11:45 am. Back at 1:00 pm.

Recreation Facility Analysis: Overview presented by Fullman (PowerPoint). What is it all about? Analysis of recreation sites across a given Forest. Complete for the entire Region at this time. It is revisited every five years, is an analysis of recreation conditions at individual sites, decommissioning requires public involvement. (see web for additional information)

Huron-Manistee NF Overview

The Forest has been working on their Forest plan for the last three years. That process is complete, and has undergone extensive public involvement. Forest personnel have now taken a comprehensive look at the recreation program on the Huron-Manistee NF. Components of their strategic analysis include: National Visitor Use Monitoring Program, (NVUM), Land/Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement, Travel Management Rule implementation, 2005 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, Pere Marquette Scenic River Plan, Recreation Special Use Permit renewal, and Recreation Facility Analysis. Their proposals tier directly to this strategic analysis.

Proposal 5:

National Forest: Huron-Manistee NF

Proposed Action: Fee increase at 21 campgrounds. Change from per vehicle to per site.

Site	Current Fee Per Vehicle	Proposed Fee Per Site
Equestrian Horse Camp	\$3	\$15
Highly Developed Campground	\$12	\$15
Med Developed Campground	\$3	\$10

Discussion:

- Can the Concessionaire fees be changed? No, but they are reviewed by the FS and negotiated with each individual concessionaire agreement.

Jourdain made a motion to recommend. Lowe seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved

Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)
Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Proposal 6:

National Forest: Huron-Manistee NF

Proposed Action: Increase fee at South Branch Trail Group Campsite

Breakdown	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Group Camp Fee for 1 to 50 people	\$25.00	\$40.00
Group Camp Fee for 51 to 100 people	\$40.00	\$70.00
Group Camp Fee for 101 to 150 people	\$50.00	\$80.00
Group Camp Fee for 151 to 200 people	\$60.00	\$90.00
Group Camp Fee for 201 to 250 people	\$70.00	\$100.00

Jourdain made a motion to recommend. Johnson seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved
Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)
Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Proposal 7:

National Forest: Huron-Manistee NF

Proposed Action: Increase fee at 52 day-use sites (trailheads, picnic sites, boating)

Current Fee: \$3-\$4/day Proposed Fee: \$5/day

Lowe made a motion to recommend. Arnold seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved
Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)
Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Proposal 8:

National Forest: Huron-Manistee NF

Proposed Action: Increase fees at Au Sable River Corridor designated campsites.

Current Fee: \$5

Proposed Fee: \$10

Jourdain made a motion to approve. Manjerovic seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved
Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)
Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Proposal 9:

National Forest: Huron-Manistee NF

Proposed Action: Increase fee for the Kirtland's Warbler Guided Tour (17 years of age and older, under 17 is free)

Current Fee: \$5

Proposed Fee: \$10

Discussion

- Entire tour is 2 ½ hours; hosted by biologist that stays with tour the entire time
- Festival held each year is well attended by public
- Interpretive Store adds to the benefit/education opportunity for visitors
- Walking trail connects to County Trail system, can picnic at the site

Johnson made a motion to approve. Arnold seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved

Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Proposal 10:

National Forest: Huron-Manistee NF

Proposed Action: Increase fee for the Day Use pass (weekly, annual, household pass)

Pass	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Daily Pass	\$3.00	\$5.00
Weekly Pass	\$5.00	\$15.00
Annual Pass	\$20.00	\$30.00
Household Pass (two annual passes sold to two people at the same home address).	\$30.00	\$45.00

Jourdain made a motion to approve. Craig seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved

Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Proposal 11:

National Forest: Huron-Manistee NF

Proposed Action: Eliminate fees at two day use sites and one campground

Site Description:

Site	Site Type	Fee Type	Dev Level	Current Fee
Hungerford Ski Trailhead	Day Use - Trailhead	Standard Amenity	2	\$3.00
Not enough amenities to charge standard fee because removed trash can, permanent toilet, and picnic table amenities to reduce deferred maintenance.				
Bowman Lake Trailhead - North County National Scenic Trail	Day Use - Trailhead	Standard Amenity	2	\$3.00
Not enough amenities to charge standard fee because removed permanent toilet amenity to reduce deferred maintenance.				
Hungerford Lake Campsites	Campground	Expanded Amenity	2	\$3.00
Campsites provide only four expanded amenities (5 of 9 required).				

Jordain made a motion to approve. Johnson seconded. Motion recommended.

Voting Outcome:

- Category 1: All approved
- Category 2: 2 approved (1 member absent)
- Category 3: 2 approved (1 member absent)

Chatham thanked the group for their commitment in reviewing the proposals prior to the meeting and reviewed the next step - a letter which will be sent to the Regional Forester, signed by the Chairperson forwarding Committee recommendations.

Critique

- Group Liked Spreadsheet on proposals
- What additional questions would the committee would like up front?
- Good discussion on Recreation Facility Analysis. Liked that overview.
- Like the forest-wide holistic and strategic view of the entire forest developed recreation sites.
- Liked knowing what is free, what is fee eligible, and the percentages of each across the Forest.
- Liked the idea of creating “consistency in fees and free concepts” across the Forest.
- Liked “packaging” of fee proposals – how they were presented.
- Appreciate opportunity to discuss “fee elimination proposals”

At the first RRAC meeting (April 24, 2007), there was a tie in votes for a Chairperson. The two candidates and the Committee agreed to “share” Chairmanship, each person serving two years. Chairperson Rosemary Mape has served since the Committee was first chartered and will now turn that responsibility/opportunity to former Vice-Chair Dana Johnson. Chair Person Mape will complete the unfinished business from this meeting i.e. approval/submittal of minutes, letters to specific members of the public i.e. Michael Scott, Kitty Benzar and email to Peter Wiechers. Dana Johnson will work with organization of next year meetings, agendas, pre-work, public input letters/emails, etc

between now and next spring. The position of Vice-Chair will now be filled by Rosemary Mape during the tenure of Dana Johnson.

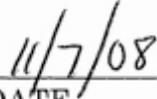
Motion to adjourn made by Johnson, seconded by Jourdain.



I certify that each member of the Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee has been given an opportunity to review and comment on the October 2008 meeting notes; and I officially approve the above notes.



Rosemary Mape
Eastern Region RRAC Chairperson



DATE

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